



State of Connecticut
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REPRESENTATIVE LINDA A. ORANGE
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TESTIMONY OF DEPUTY SPEAKER LINDA ORANGE, 48TH DISTRICT
Planning and Development Public Hearing
February 27, 2015

I am writing in support of HB 5092, An Act Concerning the Discontinuance of Highways and Private Ways by Municipalities.

I support this bill because it will provide necessary clarification to otherwise ambiguous statutes. I have two constituents in Colchester who own a promising piece of land that is undevelopable due to certain law proceedings. They have no public road access, nor right of way access, to the land. They are prohibited from developing this property and establishing utility connections. These circumstances are ultimately the result of a court case ruling that interpreted the Town of Lebanon's intentions when closing the road many decades ago.

House Bill 5092 offers a future remedy to landowners who have title to property under ambiguous legal circumstances. This legislation will normalize the process of road discontinuance, updating terms to modern language and creating notification standards on such an action. The bill would therefore codify what will be good policy.

This bill has broad bipartisan support and all parties involved are satisfied with its language.

I appreciate your consideration of this legislation and the opportunity to speak before your committee.

Thank you for your time.